

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00526 121225Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 MMO-01 INR-07 PRS-01 /039 W
----- 108136

R 120914Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 932

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0526

STADIS ////////////////

FOR EUR/EE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, PROP, BU
SUBJ: VOA COVERAGE OF BCP CONGRESS

REF: A) SOFIA 059 (NOT SENT STATE); B) USIA 1264

1. YOU MAY RECALL THAT IN REF B USIA WORRIED THAT IF NO VOA CORRESPONDENT COMES TO SOFIA FOR THE PARTY CONGRESS THIS WOULD IN SOME WAY ESTABLISH AN UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT. WE HAD A TELEPHONE CALL YESTERDAY FROM THE VOA MAN IN BELGRADE, FREUND, WHO ON THE OPEN LINE TRIED TO EXPLAIN TO OUR P&C OFFICER WHY THE EMBASSY POSITION IS UNREASONABLE AND HE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO COME. ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT THE MAIN REASON FOR THIS TELEGRAM, IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF YOU COULD CALL VOA AND TELL THEM I REGARD SUCH TELEPHONE CALLS A VIOLATION OF BOTH SECURITY AND PROPRIETY.

2. WE SEE NO SUBSTANTIVE PURPOSE TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY HAVING A VOA MAN HEREDURING THE CONGRESS. THERE IS NOTHING HE CAN SEE OR LEARN THAT CAN'T BE OBTAINED FROM READING PAPERS AND LISTENING TO THE BULGARIAN RADIO; AND IN ANY CASE VOA'S BULGARIAN AUDIENCE WOUNT BE INTERESTED IN HEARING STILL MORE ABOUT THAT BORING EVENT OVER VOA. THE ARGUMENT ON THE OTHER SIDE IS THAT VOA HAD A REP AT THE WARSAW AND BUDAPEST CONGRESSES AND EXPECTS TO SEND ONE TO PRAGUE, AND IT WOULD IN SOME WAY LOOK

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PAGE 02 SOFIA 00526 121225Z

LIKE WE WERE BENDING TO THE BULGARIANS IF WE DIDN'T

HAVE ONE HERE ALSO.

3. I AM NOT AT ALL IMPRESSED WITH THE ARGUMENT, BUT
WOULD BE WILLING TO CHANGE POSITION IF THE DEPARTMENT
ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO IT. AS WE SEE IT HERE, PRESENCE
OF ANOTHER OFFICIAL AMERICAN IN SOFIA IS SOMETHING TO BE
CONTROLLED BY THIS POST, AND IF NO PRACTICAL PURPOSE IS
SERVED BY HIS BEING HERE THEN HE SHOULD NOT COME. PLEASE
LET US KNOW IF THIS POSITION EMBARRASSES THE DEPARTMENT.
IF NOT, I WOULD INTEND TO STICK WITH IT. REGARDS.

HERZ

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NNN

Message Attributes

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